



# *Read Kansas!*

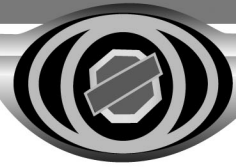
1-3

*By the Kansas State Historical Society*

## Famous Kansan



*Walter Chrysler*  
1875-1940



Walter Chrysler wanted to know what made things work. He liked to work with tools and with machines. Most of all he loved machines that made things move. When these machines stopped working, Chrysler wanted to fix them. He started work as a mechanic for the railroad so he could learn how to fix trains.

As a young man Chrysler went to an automobile show in Chicago. When he saw the automobiles, called "locomobiles," Chrysler wanted to learn all he could about them. He borrowed money so he could buy one. But, Chrysler did not want the locomobile to drive it. Instead he wanted to learn how it worked. He studied it so he could figure out what design would work best for a locomobile.

Walter Chrysler had many ideas for designing cars. Before he started building his own cars, he tested many other cars. He often tested them in a wind tunnel. Chrysler discovered that most cars that people were driving were not designed well. They would run faster if they were driven backwards! So, Chrysler designed his cars and tested them in a wind tunnel so he knew they would be the best cars that money could buy.

Chrysler was a businessman, too, and he had many ideas about how to run his business. After he began designing and building cars, he started his own car company. He named it the Chrysler Corporation. Soon the Chrysler Corporation became the second largest car company in the United States.

Today cars are designed better because of Walter Chrysler's ideas. Many of the new ideas that Chrysler added to cars when the company first began are still being used. Every year millions of cars are still being made with the Chrysler name on them.

